

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On Page 1, lines 4-5:

The invention relates to a vacuum cleaner ~~according to the preamble of claim 1.~~

On Page 1, before line 7, insert the following:

-- Background of the Invention --

On Page 1, before line 25, insert the following:

-- Summary of the Invention --

On Page 6, before line 9, insert the following:

-- Brief Description of the Drawings --

On Page 6, before line 19, insert the following:

-- Figure 3 is a detailed view of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 1.

Detailed Description of the Exemplary Embodiments of the Present Invention --

On Page 7, before line 30, insert the following:

-- As shown in Figures 1 and 3, the blind 17 can be displaceable or slidable with respect to the lid along a slide track 20 to open and close the opening 15. The retractable blind

17 is configured such that the blind 17 does not project from the external contour of the vacuum cleaner in the open position. As shown in Figures 1 and 3, the portion of the blind 17 that extends along the slide track 20 does not project outwardly beyond the opening 15. --